



AWAKEN YOUR MIND – EMPOWER YOUR LIFE – IGNITE YOUR DREAMS

Awaken Responsible Travel Policy

Travellers Code of Conduct

- We enforce “leave no trace” rules and encourage our participants to use natural products (mosquito repellent, sunscreen, etc.) which cause less impact on the animals and the environment and are sourced and sold by the local community.
- All travellers have a skype call set up before departure so they can be aware of what to expect with the trip itinerary. This included the country’s social, political and economic situation. This is a time for our guides to address any questions or concerns regarding the trip and to set expectations.

Environmental Statement

- The destinations we visit on Awaken trips are controlled by the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Environment, meaning that all guides in these areas have specific rules they must follow in order to reduce their environmental impact.
- Awaken also works with ecology/animal reserves instead of larger foreign owned organizations.
- Every program Awaken offers has a constant national guide throughout the entirety of the trip as well as a local guide in each new community visited along the trip.
- Filtered water is provided while at the Awaken house to encourage participants to refill their water bottles instead of buying single use plastic bottles.
- No plastic used on the trip, all meals are served on dinnerware
- Awaken is 100% paper free, all marketing and internal documents are online or in a digital format
- Awaken uses local or shared transportation. Public transportation in Ecuador is easily accessible and affordable which is why we incentivise our employees and encourage our interns to use public transportation, we also have bicycles that we provide to our staff members.

Economic

- Awaken funds the Awaken Foundation. Our mission is to work with young children of parents who are currently or were formerly in juvenile detention, as well as the parents themselves in order to effectively reinsert each member of the family into society and become productive citizens.
- All lodging for Awaken trips is run and operated by the local communities we visit. Our suppliers are local entrepreneurs and we support their up and coming business initiatives.
- All meals are planned ahead for restaurants owned by community members.

Social

- Awaken foundation: We work with youth of parents who are currently or were formerly in juvenile detention, as well as the parents themselves in order to effectively reinsert each member of the family into society and become productive citizens. We support each participant’s physical, psychological, behavioural, educational, and professional

+593996420870

Facebook: awaken.ec

information@awaken.com.ec

Instagram: awaken.ec

www.awaken.com.ec

Twitter: @awaken_ec



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development while cultivating a better quality of life. Finally, we work with society at large to raise awareness about a culture of compassion and social support.

- Awaken hosts three medical trips per year to communities that do not have readily available access to health services and offers free care to patients of all ages and health conditions.
- Once on the trip, our clients are debriefed each time we approach new communities on local customs and ways of life that the participants will be exposed to.

Community Projects Supported by Awaken

In every region we visit in Ecuador, we support local community projects, below we highlight three examples, one from each part of Ecuador.

- Northern Highlands: San Clemente in Ibarra City is a project that allows for the cultural exchange of ideas and educates trip members on how locals care for the environment. This project was designed to directly involve each family of the community.
- Coastal Region: Rio Muchacho is a national geographic endorsed social enterprise that involves the local community. This organic farm is dedicated to regenerative solutions in agriculture, sustainability, education and responsible tourism.
- Amazon Jungle: Sinchi Warmi is an entrepreneurship project started by 11 Kichwa women eager to have a better life style and give a better future to their children. They work mainly by sharing their traditions, ancestral customs, and their respectful way to coexist with Mother Nature.